

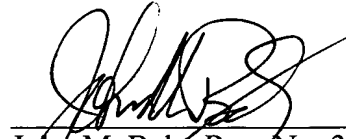
*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS*

In the Office Action Summary and Paragraph 3 on Page 2 of the Office Action, claims 22-25 were indicated as being rejected. However, this appears to be a typographical error, because in the Office Action Summary and in Paragraph 5 on Page 4 of the Office Action claims 22-25 were indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, claims 22 and 25 have been rewritten in independent form.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to define a system which includes a processing circuit that signals the implications of water content on particle count. Similarly, independent claim 27 has been amended to define a method which includes providing an indication of the reliability of the number of particles counted by the optical particle counter in accordance with the sensed water content. The inventors responded to a problem in the art, i.e., the problem related to erroneous counts produced by an optical particle counter in the presence of water. The inventors responded to this problem by inventing the system and method of claim 1 and claim 27, allowing for the count of an optical particle counter to be weighed in accordance with the amount of water sensed in the non-aqueous liquid. Thus, the system of claim 1 includes a processing circuit that signals implications of the water content on the particle count, and the method of claim 1 includes providing an indication of the reliability of the particle count in accordance with the sensed water content. One skilled in the art considering Klein and Altemose and any of the other references cited in the Office Action would not be motivated to provide the system and method of claims 1 and 27 and would have no conception of the system and method of claims 1 and 27. Neither Klein nor Altemose nor any other reference cited in the Office Action discloses the problem addressed by the inventors nor anything resembling the solution invented by the inventors and defined in claims 1 and 27.

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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